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of CO₂ is that it asphyxiates the animals wherever they may be. Since the gas has no odor, it does not occur to the rats to search for means of escape.

With a perfected apparatus for the use of this gas, the system devised by Mr. Lafon has given very satisfactory results. I furnish herewith a draft of the boat containing the apparatus. It must be avowed that a completely satisfactory solution of the problem of the total destruction of rats on board ships has not been found. If there are no damages to fear, or if the rats in the hold are infected, it is possible to use SO₂, but in cases of ordinary steamers loaded with miscellaneous merchandise it is necessary to employ the carbonic-acid process.

Measles prevalent at Nantes—House disinfection for tuberculosis.

Consul Ridgely at Nantes reports, April 10, as follows:

The prevalence of measles is unusually great, and the form of the disease exceptionally virulent.

Tuberculosis.—The monthly report of the health office calls attention to the fact that tuberculosis is contagious, and states that during the month of March 39 houses in which deaths from tuberculosis had occurred had been disinfected by the authorities.

GERMANY.

Report from Berlin—Plague and cholera in various countries.

Consul-General Mason reports, April 24, as follows:

Plague.

Aden.—On the 9th of March a stoker who had been landed two days previously from the steamer *Syria* died of plague at Aden.

British East India.—In the city of Mangalore 1 case of plague, with fatal termination, occurred on the 15th of March.

Mauritius.—During the period from the 6th of February to the 12th of March 13 cases of plague (with 5 deaths) occurred on the island.

South Africa.—During the week ended March 21 there were registered 7 cases of plague in Port Elizabeth and 2 cases in East London. On the steamer *Nerassa*, during the same week, 4 Asiatics were found to be suffering with plague. The ship had been in quarantine since the 18th of March.

Queensland.—During the week ended March 6 1 death from plague occurred in Brisbane.

West Australia.—On the 7th of March there were still 2 patients under treatment, but, according to the official bulletins, no new cases were recorded during the first week of March.

Plague and cholera.

British East India.—During the two weeks from the 15th to the 28th March there were registered in Calcutta 1,567 deaths from plague and 97 deaths from cholera.

Cholera.

Turkey.—According to the official bulletin regarding cholera in Syria there were registered in Damascus, between the 30th of March and 5th of April, 8 new cases of cholera and 13 deaths, and between the 6th and 11th of April, 10 cases (12 deaths). The total number of deaths since the fresh outbreak of the disease amounted to 74.